

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 is pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claims 3-10 are cancelled. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in original claims 1 and 3. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant confirms the election of Group I, claims 1 and 3, made during the February 7, 2007 telephone conference between the Examiner and Applicant's representative. This election is made without traverse, as the non-elected claims are cancelled herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 3 is cancelled to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Prasad

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over WO 00/65937 to Prasad et al. ("Prasad"). By this Amendment, claim 3 is cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. As to the remaining claim, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] method for microwave cooking a raw meat or a raw marine product, the method comprising: preparing a seasoning; applying the seasoning to the raw meat or the raw marine product; and subjecting the seasoned raw meat or the seasoned raw

marine product to microwave heating; wherein: the seasoning comprises a starch, a thermosetting protein, an oil component, an organic acid, and melanoidin; the oil component comprises at least one edible fat or oil; and the organic acid comprises at least one organic acid selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, succinic acid, malic acid, lactic acid, butyric acid and tartaric acid" (emphasis added). Prasad does not disclose or suggest such a method.

As indicated above, the seasoning applied to raw meat or fish in claim 1 requires melanoidin. The Office Action asserts that Prasad discloses a marinade including melanoidin at page 8, line 28 to page 9, line 2. *See* Office Action, page 4. In fact, Prasad discloses that "[w]hen heated the amino acids react with the glucose or galactose to produce compounds which cause browning of the fish or meat." *See* Prasad, page 8, line 31 to page 9, line 2. That is, components of the marinade of Prasad generate compounds corresponding to melanoidin after heating is commenced. These compounds do not exist in the marinade that is applied to raw meat or fish. The seasoning defined in claim 1, by contrast, includes melanoidin when it is applied to raw meat or fish.

Because the marinade of Prasad does not include melanoidin when applied to raw meat or fish, before heating is commenced, too much time is required to cause the Maillard reaction by reaction of constituent amino acids and reduced sugars. Accordingly, it is not possible, employing the marinade of Prasad, to complete cooking in as short a time as is possible with the method of claim 1. Furthermore, because this reaction of amino acids and reduced sugars takes place during cooking, an unpleasant odor is emitted. By contrast, when the seasoning in claim 1 is employed, heating does not initiate the Maillard reaction, but rather accelerates the Maillard reaction because melanoidin is already present in the seasoning before cooking begins. *See, e.g.*, present specification, page 8, lines 4 to 15. As a result, the seasoning employed in claim 1 achieves browning of ingredients in a short time.

As Prasad fails to disclose or suggest applying a seasoning including melanoidin to raw meat or fish, Prasad fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

As explained, claim 1 is not anticipated by Prasad. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Wilson

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5008124 to Wilson ("Wilson"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

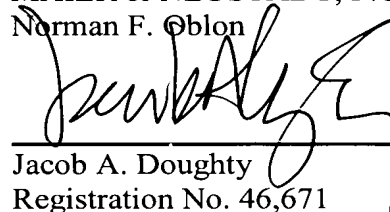
By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which is not subject to this rejection, thus obviating the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Updated Claims Correspondence Table